

## **Guidelines for Physician/ARNP Collaborative Agreements**

The 1996 Kentucky General Assembly approved amendments to the Nurse Practice Act, which allows Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNP's) to issue prescriptions for non-scheduled legend drugs as defined in KRS 217.905. Before an ARNP engages in the prescribing of non-scheduled legend drugs, as authorized by KRS 314.011(8), the ARNP is required to enter into a written collaborative practice agreement with a physician that defines the scope of the prescriptive authority.

Pursuant to KRS 311.595(9), as illustrated by KRS 311.597(4), a physician's practice must conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The following guidelines have been approved and adopted by the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure (KBML) as the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice within the Commonwealth of Kentucky regarding a physician's role in such collaborative agreements:

1. The physician entering into a collaborative agreement must possess a full and unrestricted Kentucky medical license in good standing and shall have an active clinical practice in the state in which no less than twenty hours per week shall involve direct patient care.
2. Agreements will be automatically terminated when disciplinary action is taken against the physician. When disciplinary action is taken the physician must notify the affected nurse(s) and the Kentucky Board of Nursing of the disciplinary action and the termination of the agreement.
3. A physician may not enter into a collaborative agreement with more than two ARNP's at any given time. The collaborative agreement cannot exceed two years in length but may be renewed.
4. The physician must practice in the same geographical area as the ARNP. The physician does not have to be present when the ARNP is providing services. However, there must be reliable means available to have direct communication with the physician at all times.
5. The physician shall be trained and fully qualified in the field of the ARNP's specialty.
6. The agreement must contain a formal arrangement for coverage to be utilized when the physician is not available in the same geographical area.
7. The collaborative agreement shall be in writing, signed and dated by the physician and the ARNP.

8. Any physician entering into a collaborative agreement shall notify the KBML in writing. The fully executed copy of the collaborative agreement shall be kept in the physician's office. Upon request, the physician will be required to provide a copy of the agreement to the Board.

The Board may grant an exemption of any of the above guidelines based upon factors unique to a particular situation or relationship.

Adopted: September 18, 1997